

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 863

To improve communications interoperability for emergency response.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To improve communications interoperability for emergency response.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Improving Commu-
5 nications Interoperability Grant Program Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY RE-**
2 **SPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Title V of the Homeland Se-
4 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by
5 adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 522. IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY**
7 **RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting
9 through the Director of the Office of Grants and Training
10 and in coordination with the Director for Emergency Com-
11 munications, shall establish the Improve Communications
12 for Emergency Response Grant Program to make grants
13 to States and regions to carry out initiatives to improve
14 interoperable emergency communications for first re-
15 sponders for domestic preparedness and the collective re-
16 sponse to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other
17 man-made disasters, including initiatives to achieve solu-
18 tions to statewide, regional, national, and, where appro-
19 priate, international interoperability.

20 “(b) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—A State or region re-
21 ceiving a grant under this section may use the grant for
22 short-term or long-term goals for improving interoperable
23 emergency communications, including interoperability
24 within that State or region, and to assist with—

25 “(1) statewide or regional communications
26 planning;

1 “(2) design and engineering for interoperable
2 emergency communications systems;

3 “(3) procurement and installation of interoper-
4 able emergency communications equipment;

5 “(4) interoperable emergency communications
6 exercises;

7 “(5) modeling and simulation exercises for
8 operational command and control functions;

9 “(6) technical assistance and training for inter-
10 operable emergency communications; and

11 “(7) other activities determined by the Sec-
12 retary to be integral to interoperable emergency
13 communications.

14 “(c) REGION DEFINED.—For the purposes of this
15 section, the term ‘region’ means any combination of con-
16 tiguous local government units, including such a combina-
17 tion established by law or mutual aid agreement between
18 two or more local governments or governmental agen-
19 cies.”.

20 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Home-
22 land Security for grants under section 522 of the Home-
23 land Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a)—

24 (1) such sums as may be necessary for the first
25 fiscal year that begins after the later of—

1 (A) the date on which the Secretary of
2 Homeland Security completes and submits to
3 Congress the National Emergency Communica-
4 tions Plan required under section 1802 of the
5 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 572);

6 (B) the date on which the Secretary of
7 Homeland Security completes and submits to
8 Congress the first baseline interoperability as-
9 sessment required under section 1803 of such
10 Act (6 U.S.C. 573); or

11 (C) the date on which the Secretary of
12 Homeland Security, after consultation with the
13 Director of Emergency Communications, deter-
14 mines and notifies Congress that substantial
15 progress has been made towards the develop-
16 ment and promulgation of voluntary consensus-
17 based interoperable communications standards
18 pursuant to section 1801(c)(11) of such Act (6
19 U.S.C. 571(c)(11)); and

20 (2) such sums as may be necessary for each
21 subsequent fiscal year.

22 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
23 in section 1(b) of that Act is amended by inserting after
24 the item relating to section 521 the following:

“Sec. 522. Improve Communications for Emergency Response Grant Program.”.

